

Peter BRETSCHNEIDER.  
Appl. No.: 10/070,824

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

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19. (currently amended) An arrangement for organizing flat items of mail, in accordance with a definable sequence of delivery points assigned to the-recipient addresses, into a plurality of depositing receptacles (2) into which in each case a plurality of items of mail (3)-can be destacked in organized fashion, having a reading arrangement for determining the-direct or indirect address information located on the items of mail (3) separated by means of separating arrangement, having a plurality of containers (1, 4) which circulate on at least one conveying arrangement and are intended for receiving, for transporting and for discharging in a controllable manner in each case one item of mail (3) into the depositing receptacles (2) in a number of circulating cycles, and having a control arrangement which, with knowledge of the address information of all the items of mail (3) located in the containers-(1), controls the discharge of the items of mail (3) from the containers (1) to the depositing receptacles (2) such that the sequence of the items of mail (3) in a definable order of the depositing receptacles (2) corresponds to the sequence of the delivery points assigned to the addresses, the order of the items of mail (3) in each depositing receptacle (2) corresponding to the sequence of the delivery points assigned to the addresses of the items of mail (3) located in the respective depositing receptacle-(2), characterized in that the depositing receptacles (2) are arranged along the conveying arrangement, and in that the depositing receptacles (2) are subdivided into two more or less equally sized groups and, in the case of organizing sorting runs proceeding one after the other, the items of mail (3) of different address areas are alternately sorted only into one of the two depositing-receptacle groups.

20. (currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 19, characterized in that the items of mail (3) of the-a current address area can be loaded into empty circulating

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containers (4) while items of mail (3) of the preceding address area are still located in containers (1).

21. (currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 20, characterized in that the a loading location of the containers (4) can be moved along the circulating containers (1-4) in a controlled manner, within defined limits, such that the item of mail (3) which is to be loaded in each case can be loaded, without any loading delay, into loaded into an empty container (4) located in the a defined movement range of the loading location.

22. (currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 19, characterized in that, once the non-sorted items of mail (3) have been loaded into the empty containers (4), pre-sorted items of mail (3) for a the same address area can be loaded into the still empty containers (4) or containers (4) which are just becoming empty as a result of the non-sorted items of mail (3) being discharged to the depositing receptacles (2), the delivery points being assigned place numbers in accordance with their a mail defined order in the respective depositing receptacles (3), and the pre-sorting operation taking place such that the items of mail (3) which are assigned to the delivery points with the lower place numbers can be separated before the items of mail (3) with the higher assigned place numbers.

23. (currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 22, characterized in that the non-sorted items of mail (3) of the a current address area can be loaded into empty circulating containers (4) while items of mail (3) of the a preceding address area are still located in containers (1).

24. (currently amended) A process for organizing flat items of mail, in accordance with a definable sequence of delivery points assigned to the recipient addresses, into a plurality of depositing receptacles (2) into which in each case a plurality of items of mail (3) are destacked in organized fashion, in the case of which the direct or indirect address information located on the separated items of mail (3) is read, in each case one item of mail (3) is received into one of a plurality of containers (1-4) circulating on at least one

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conveying arrangement, is transported therein and is discharged in a controlled manner into the depositing receptacles (2) in a number of circulating cycles, it being the case that, with knowledge of the address information of all the items of mail (3) located in the containers (1), said items of mail are discharged from the containers (1) to the depositing receptacles (2) such that the sequence of the items of mail (3) in a definable order of the depositing receptacles (2) corresponds to the sequence of the delivery points assigned to the addresses, and it being the case that the order of the items mail (3) in each depositing receptacle (2) corresponds to the sequence of the delivery points assigned to the addresses of the items of mail located in the respective depositing receptacle (2), characterized in that the depositing receptacles (2) are arranged along the conveying arrangement and are subdivided into two more or less equally sized groups and, in the case of organizing sorting runs proceeding one after the other, the items of mail (3) of different address areas are alternately sorted only into one of the two depositing-receptacle groups.

25. (currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 24, characterized in that the items of mail (3) of the-a current address area are loaded into empty circulating containers (4) while items of mail (3) of the-a preceding address area are still located in containers (4).

26. (currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 24, characterized in that, once the-non-sorted items of mail (3) have been loaded into the-empty containers (4), pre-sorted items of mail (3) for the-a same address area are loaded into the-still empty containers (4) or containers (4) which are just becoming empty as a result of the non-sorted items of mail (3) being discharged to the depositing receptacles (2), the delivery points being assigned place numbers in accordance with their defined order in the respective depositing receptacles (2), and the pre-sorting operation taking place such that the items of mail (3) which are assigned to the delivery points with the-lower place numbers can be separated before the items of mail (3) with the-higher assigned place numbers.

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27. (currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that the non-sorted items of mail (3) of the a current address area are loaded into empty circulating containers (4) while items of mail (3) of the a preceding address area are still located in containers (1).